



JOIN THE COALITION

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# Preserve #CommunityDriven Spaces

06 MARCH 2017



# NYC ARTIST COALITION

**Tell the Dept of Cultural Affairs...**

PRESERVE **#COMMUNITYDRIVEN** SPACES

**TOWN HALL**  
NYCARTC.COM/SPEAKOUT

**TWEET**  
@NYCULTURE

## PREVENT CRIMINALIZATION

The criminalization and shutdown of spaces pushes our community “underground” and into unsafe environments.

- **Support Repeal of Cabaret Law**
- **Transparency of MARCH program**

## ACCESS TO SUPPORT

Independent creative communities are a thriving informal economy excluded from vital government and philanthropic support.

- **Confidential Cultural Caseworkers: Permitting & Liability**
- **Establish an Urgent Repairs Fund**

## PROMOTE AFFORDABILITY

Having artists and art spaces in the same building is economically essential.

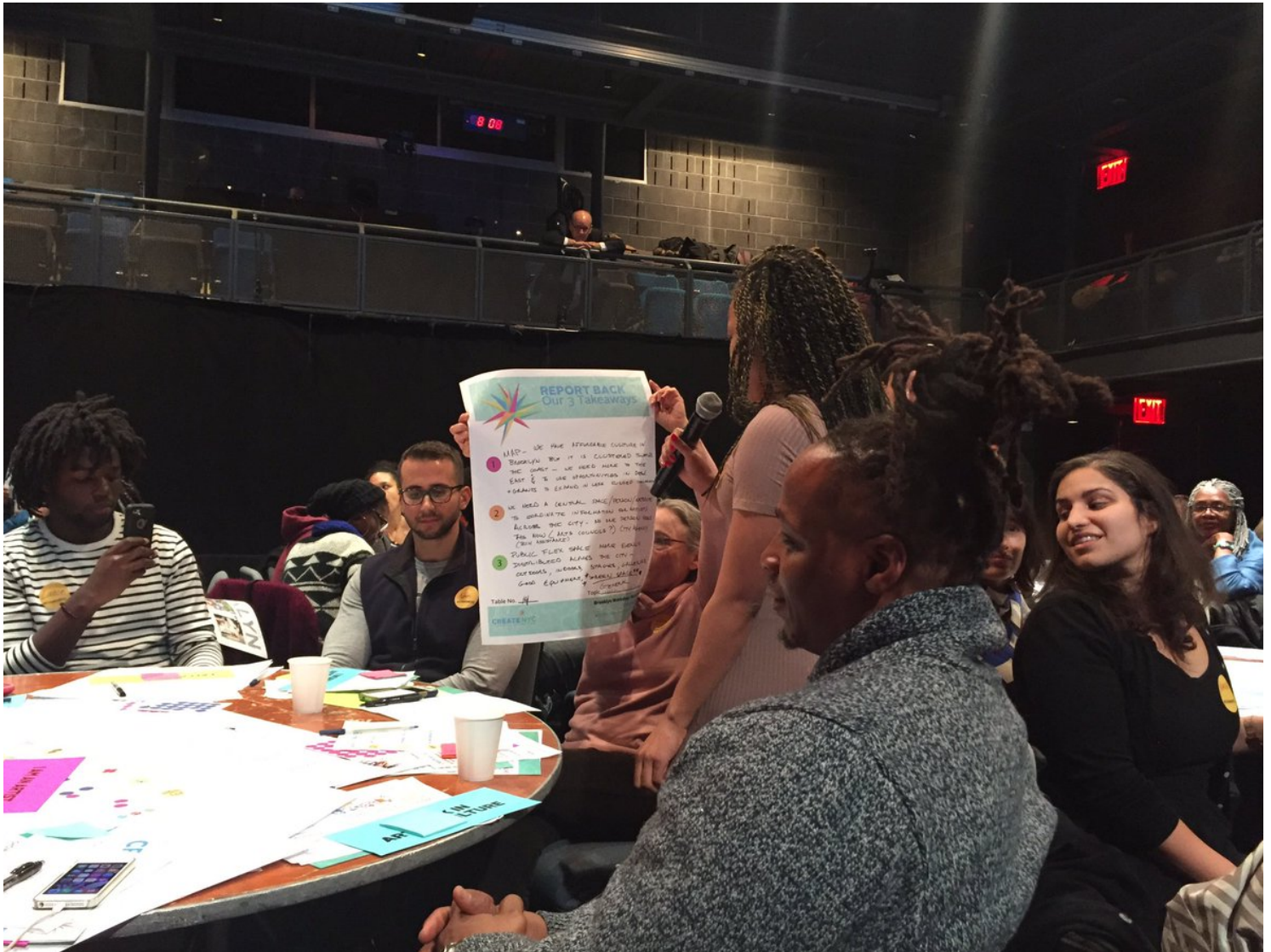
- **Expand the Loft Law**
- **Preserve affordable spaces with incentives for landlords**
- **Community space incubator in underused city space**
- **Support public programming facilities in live-work spaces**

**@NYCARTC** NYCARTC.COM

# Show Up!

Come to a Town Hall and tell the Dept. of Cultural Affairs Commissioner what your priorities are!

## Featured Town Hall



### Art Space Town Hall with Dept of Cultural Affairs Commissioner

Due to Interest, Larger Rad Spot TBA

March 30, 7pm-8:15pm

TBA, New York, NY

<https://wowlist.org/events/27020/>

## All Town Halls

Council District 36: Bedford Stuyvesant “Working For Your Neighborhood” Town Hall

March 9, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

PS 23 Carter G Woodson 545 Willoughby Ave Brooklyn, NY 11206

<https://wowlist.org/events/27063/>

CreateNYC Office Hours: Disability and The Arts

March 10, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Dexter Hall, The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West New York, NY 10024

<https://wowlist.org/events/27062/>

CreateNYC All Day Symposium & Town Hall

March 22, 10 AM-10 PM

Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, New York, NY

<https://wowlist.org/events/26727/>

CreateNYC Office Hours: Displacement, Affordability & Arts Communities

March 24, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, 31 Chambers St, New York, NY 10007

<https://wowlist.org/events/26886/>

## Speak Up!

Tell the Dept. of Cultural Affairs what your priorities are!

#CreateNYC #CommunityDriven

twitter: [@NYCulture](https://twitter.com/NYCulture)

facebook: [facebook.com/nyculturalaffairs](https://facebook.com/nyculturalaffairs)

## Full Text of Letter

NYC Artist Coalition Recommendations the Dept. of Cultural Affairs Commissioner for the CreateNYC Cultural Plan

Honorable Tom Finkelpearl  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
31 Chambers St #201  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Finkelpearl:

Thank you for meeting with us last January. Following our conversation we worked collectively to further develop recommendations for CreateNYC, but also to offer some ideas on how the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs can be a great partner and a resource to informal community driven spaces.

In an expensive city such as New York, operating and patronizing cultural spaces requires more financial capital than many local communities have. Informal community driven DIY spaces such as galleries, exchange libraries, kitchen incubators, community gardens, music and performance venues as well as co-op nurseries and after-school youth playrooms--to mention just a few--are integral to the thriving diversity and democratic character of our city.

In the wake of the heartbreaking Ghost Ship tragedy in Oakland where we lost loved ones, we must come together as a city to ensure the safety of independent cultural spaces. New York's community driven spaces are critical to the city's cultural production and life-saving for the people they serve and support. Preserving independent alternative community spaces during this uncertain political and economic time is essential.

The three fundamental challenges faced by these spaces are: Criminalization, Access to Financial & Administrative Support and Affordability. The NYC Artist Coalition asks the DCLA and CreateNYC to focus on the following to advance real solutions for all New Yorkers.

## **Prevent Criminalization of Community Driven Spaces**

The criminalization, shutdown, and loss of community driven spaces will only push our community further “underground” and into other unsafe environments.

1. Support repealing the antiquated **Cabaret Law**, a de facto tax on individual cultural expression.
2. Facilitate transparency on **MARCH** (Multi-Agency Response to Community Hotspots) operations and on how targets are selected. Community ‘hotspots’ are precious and need to be protected and sustained, not targeted. The Coalition wants to collaborate with the City to create alternative methods to remedy noncompliant community driven spaces.
3. Work across City and State agencies and advocate for a **Comprehensive, Streamlined Event Permit** issued in timely

manner for all independent cultural projects and spaces. That is not run by the NYPD.

## **Access to Financial & Administrative Support**

Independent creative communities represent a thriving informal economy that is excluded from vital government and philanthropic support.

- 1. Create a Task Force of Cultural Liaisons.** Cultural Liaisons act as consultants or case managers for community driven spaces and work as a connection between community driven spaces and all City Agencies whose policies may apply in such spaces. Cultural Liaisons facilitate permitting processes and access to City programs by creatively overcoming bureaucratic hurdles, identifying liabilities and addressing legal conundrums. There needs to be confidentiality to reduce fear of retaliation.
- 2. Establish an Urgent Repairs Fund.** A pool of matching funds to cover the cost of urgently needed safety maintenance work, which could make affordable the cost of simple and yet lifesaving safety measures for many community driven spaces. The fund could cover expenses for certified construction workers, electricians, plumbers, as well as architects, engineers, expeditors and all sorts of other technical support.

## **Promote Affordability**

Create and preserve much needed affordable space for all stages of independent cultural production including public programming facilities in live-work spaces. Having artists and art spaces in the same building is economically essential.

1. **Advocate to expand the Loft Law** and repeal Chapter 147 coverage exclusions. Remove 2017 application deadline. Organize an informational campaign about the opportunity for artists living in illegally converted commercial or factory buildings to formalize their live-work space. Consider offering grants for bringing the spaces up to code.
2. **Appeal to landlords with tax-abatements and other incentives** to promote and preserve affordable cultural facilities of all scales in all the New York City boroughs.
3. **Community space incubator in underused City spaces.** Open up underused City-owned spaces such as school auditoriums. Designate one city-owned building in each borough to be used as a platform where artists can plug in. Intermediary nonprofits could run these facilities. This will foster underground creative communities who are doing interesting, cutting-edge work but are cut out from mainstream institutional support.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations and we strongly encourage the inclusion of community driven spaces in the CreateNYC priorities. We look forward to another meeting with you and your staff where we can discuss next steps and a roadmap to some easily achievable shared goals.

Thank you in advance,

NYC Artist Coalition

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**NYC Artist Coalition**

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📍 *New York, NY*

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## City to City: Oakland Warehouse Coalition

Jonah, Oakland Warehouse Coalition: We started Oakland Warehouse Coalition not only as a reaction to the witch hunt that...

YOU MIGHT ENJOY

## March General Meeting, Calendar, and Bulletin Board

General Meeting Monday!  
Where:  
The Floasis, 1342 Dekalb Ave, Brooklyn When: Monday March 6, 7pm Each month the NYC...

### Join the NYC Artist Coalition

We are an emerging coalition of artists, creative organizations, community leaders, activists, policy makers, and specialists providing mutual support and advocating for informal and affordable community spaces in NYC. We protect spaces for being you together.

\* indicates required

Email Address \*

First Name

Last Name

Organization / Project

Ways I can help other members (skills & resources)

**Member Listing (select all that apply)**

- Show me on the public facing Coalition Members page
- Add me to the members only NAC Mutual Aid Contact List and give me access

Join

## **DIY Community Gathering & Town Hall Co-Hosted by NYC Artist Coalition**

March 30, 2017  
6:30-8:30pm

Market Hotel – Bushwick  
DCLA and Council Members Rafael Espinal (CD 37) and Antonio Reynoso (CD 34)

**The cultural life of our city is put in jeopardy as the arts and other informal community spaces are closed in the place of condo development.**

- 1. Prevent criminalization:**
  - ..Repeal cabaret law
  - ..Transparency to MARCH program
  
- 2. Improve access to support:**
  - ..nurture community spaces
  - ..Informal, creative spaces are huge part of city economy, confidential cultural caseworker
  - ..Establish urgent repairs fund, application simple and multilingual
  
- 3. Promote affordability:**
  - ..key component, without affordability, there are no artists.
  - ..artists and art spaces in same buildings
  - ..expansion of Loft Law, extend past June
  - ..community space incubator in underused City spaces, work around permitting and liability
  - ..preserve community driven spaces

Dance Liberation Network: advocates for the repeal of the Cabaret Law

- ..History and racist roots of the cabaret law
- ..Originally, Cabaret Card...no more than 3 musician can perform at same time.
- ..saxophones not allowed, accordions are
- ..who is this law intending to penalize?
- ..cannot be divorced from racist roots, history of racist laws
- ..get rid of archaic and racist laws

### **CITYWIDE COORDINATION:**

..work together to encourage thriving rather than policing / Target enforcement

- Raids by MARCH:

..place of assembly, occupancy certificate, liquor license, A health rating, good insurance and licensing, strong community relationship, in constant fear of city government  
..MARCH raids and cabaret citations  
..post Ghost Ship fire, inspected over dozen times in 1 month,  
..this is not about safety, limit on numbers of cabaret license - zoning issues, M district, DCA bureaucracy  
..licenses held by only wealthy in order to compensate for costs of getting license (118? Total) over 25000 bars and restaurants.

- Legal ramifications of Cabaret Law:
  - ..first amendment, over broad, protection from harassment,
  - ..prohibits dance (undefined) and amusement
  - ..starting research project to quantify material and intangible damages the law has held on behalf of artists and owners of clubs
- Disproportionately effects minority communities:
  - ..law prevents communities feeling safe, all girl LGBT, space of affirmation, no community building without arts
  - ..arts funding and availability of safe spaces for vulnerable populations in NYC are rapidly diminishing - arts establishes belonging
  - ..nyc as sanctuary city, model this is the repeal of the cabaret law
  - ..preventing cultural customs in a public space
  - ..disallowing the very thing that makes them profitable
- MARCH transparency:
  - ..What does that look like to DCLA?
- Safety is the issue? Give us a list?
  - ..600% rent increase since 2004
  - ..NFP, in response to NYPD raiding art spaces that also happen to have music, food
  - ..we employ artists, we fix up buildings that LLs don't care about
- Stonewalling Repeal of Cabaret Law
  - ..stay engaged
- DIY Art and Music Space
  - ..countless spaces shutdown from excessive ticketing
  - ..becoming first responder to protect people in unsafe spaces
  - ..conversations not able to be had in openness, fear of communication
  - ..dangerous, creates environments of mistrust and fear
- LOFT LAW:

..units, buildings illegally converted to live/work residential

..NYC Loft Tenants.org

..protect loft law, convert spaces to legal spaces

..about having people together, live and work spaces needed, loft law is already  
a tool in place to use

April 21

Improve the law, take action